IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Gavin BREBNER	) Re: Preliminary Amendment
	)
Serial No.: Not yet assigned	)
	) Our Ref: B-4081 618511-7
Filed: Concurrently herewith	)
	)
For: "PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR	)
ALLOWING TRANSACTION BETWEEN A	)
USER AND A REMOTE SERVER"	) Date: January 18, 2001

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box New Patent Application
Washington, D.C., 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, it is respectfully requested that the following amendments be made to the Claims and Abstract:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 3, Line 1   Please delete "or 2".

Claim 6, Line 1   Please delete "to 5".

Claim 8, Line 1   Please delete "to 7".

Claim 9, Line 1   Please delete "to 8".

Claim 11, Line 4   Please change "any preceding claim"
                       to --claim 1--.

Claim 14, Line 2   Please change "any of claims 1 to 9"
                       to --claim 1--.

Claim 16, Line 1   Please change "Use of" to
                       --A method of using--.

Claims

1. Process for assisting a transaction between an user and at least one remote server (3, 4), the or each remote server (3, 4) being prepared to process at least one predetermined command, said process comprising:

- receiving (21) an abstract request formulated at a client computer and containing incomplete information identifying a potential transaction;

- analysing (22) said abstract request and mapping it to a corresponding one of said remote servers (3, 4), and to one of said predetermined command;

- constructing (23) an aggregated request based on said mapped command, enriched with data extracted from a local profile (14);

- transmitting (24) said aggregated request to said corresponding server (3, 4);

- receiving (25) the answer from said corresponding server (3, 4) and displaying the answer to the user for completing the transaction.

2. Process according to claim 1 characterized in that said aggregate request conforms to the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), and contains a query string containing both information extracted from the abstract request, and data extracted from said profile (14).

3. Process according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said local profile contains profile data that are representative of platform configuration, and are extracted from information available at the Basic Input Output System (BIOS) level.

4. Process according to claim 3 wherein said profile data are collected by means of interrogation of standardised systems management interfaces present in the client computer .

5. Process according to claim 4 wherein said profile parameters are collected by means of an interrogation via the Distributed Management Interface (DMI) or Window Management Interface (WMI).

6. Process according to claim 1 to 5 wherein said local profile comprises data personal to a particular user.

7. Process according to claim 6 wherein said local agent receives the response from said corresponding server under the form of a Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) page, and pushes it to a web browser for allowing the completion of the transaction between the user and the server.

8. Process according to claim 1 to 7 including regularly downloading a list of servers to which the abstract requests can be mapped thereby permitting modification of the offers that can be made to the user.

9. Process according to claim 1 to 8 wherein the abstract request is formulated in a natural language and a natural language analyser is employed to process the request.

10. Process for allowing a transaction between an user and at least one remote server(s) (3, 4), each of said at least one remote server(s) (3, 4) being prepared to process at least one predetermined command(s),

said process involving the steps of:

- detecting a condition of insufficient resources;

- in response to said insufficient resources detection, automatically identifying one predetermined server (3, 4), and preparing a request for transaction;

- completing said request for transaction with additional data extracted from a local profile (14);

- transmitting said request for transaction to said predetermined server (3, 4);

- receiving the answer from said predetermined server and displaying the answer to the user for completing the transaction.

5   11. A transaction aid for assisting a transaction between an user and at least one remote server (3, 4), the or each said remote server being prepared to process at least one predetermined command, said transaction aid comprising program code elements for carrying a method as claimed in any preceding claim.

10   12. A transaction aid as claimed in claim 11 in the form of a personal computer, the program code elements being implemented as a local agent for execution on the computer.

      13.   A transaction aid as claimed in claim 12 wherein the local agent is preloaded
15   and arranged to execute when the computer is booted.

      14.   A transaction aid computer program product having program code elements for carrying out a method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9.

20   15.   A computer program product as claimed in claim 12 in the form of an agent.

      16. Use of DMI or WMI interfaces for collecting data representative of a computer profile for achieving an electronic business transaction.

25   17. An arrangement for providing electronic services comprising:

      - an agent located on a client computer for receiving a request and identifying electronic services corresponding to the request;

30   - a list server for providing a list of services and one or more rules applicable to said services;

the agent being arranged to repeatedly download the list of available services from the list server and select from the downloaded list one or more services to be made available to a user of the client computer by comparing a local profile with the rules thereby permitting modification at the list server of the offers that can be made to the user.

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